

WARD 2

FALL 2019 RESISTAT

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott



Agenda

- **Quick Updates**
 - Taylor Ko
- **Somerville Fire Department**
 - Chief Charles Breen
- **Thinking Outside the Big Box**
 - Mayor Joe Curtatone
- **Rodent Study Data**
 - Georgianna Silveira, Environmental Health Coordinator
- **Somerville Police Department**
 - Captain James Donovan
- **Recent Flooding**
 - Brian Postlewaite, Assistant Director of Engineering
- **Conway Park, Brick Bottom & Post Construction Evaluation**
 - Brad Rawson, Director of Mobility

SomerBaby



- A universal, free, multilingual home visiting program for families with new babies from birth to one year old
- Designed to give Somerville's newest residents – our newborns – the best start in life by providing a *Welcome Baby Bag* with resources and a few gifts
- A SomerBaby home visitor can help you make connections to resources to support your family, healthy child development, and school readiness!







To schedule a visit, please contact:

Name	Language	Phone	Email
Flor Apolaya	Spanish/English	617-625-6600 x6702	fapolaya@k12.somerville.ma.us
Maria Holz	Portuguese/English	617-625-6600 x2345	mholz@somervillema.gov
Rachel Wilensky	English	617-625-6600 x2344	rwilensky@somervillema.gov

Or sign up online at: <http://somerville.k12.ma.us/somerbaby>

Somerville Prenatal to 3 Year Old Programs

Free, Multilingual Early Childhood programs and resources for new parents and families:

						
Program	Spanish Language Prenatal Class	SomerBaby Home Visiting Program	Parent Child + Literacy Home Visiting Program	Discover & Learn Playgroups	Parent & Guardian Support Groups	Resources and Referrals
Contact	Flor Apolya fapolya@k12.Somerville.ma.us 617-625-6600 x6702	Rachel Wilensky rwilensky@somervillema.gov 617-625-6600 x2344	Fernanda Villar fvillar@k12.Somerville.ma.us 617-625-6600 x6992	Michelle Laskey sfn@k12.Somerville.ma.us 617-625-6600 x6990	Michelle Laskey sfn@k12.Somerville.ma.us 617-625-6600 x6990	Nomi Davidson ndavidson@k12.Somerville.ma.us 617-625-6600 x6966
Families Served	First class in November!	281 Families to date	51 Families 14 Family Child Care Providers For 2019	~210 Families 14 Playgroups in Session 1	~43 Families 3 Groups in Session 1	1,419 Referrals 2018-2019

Lead Service Line Replacement Program

- Check to see if your residence has a water service line made of lead?
→ sommervillema.gov/LeadServices
- Have your property's lead or non-copper water service line replaced, **free of charge**
- Applications due by December 2019 to be considered for replacement starting Spring 2020

More information on the website above
or call the Engineering Dept. at
617-625-6600 Ext. 5400



Rethinking Reusable/Recyclable Materials

Regional and global changes mean we must be very careful about **contamination**

Do Recycle:

- Clean metal, glass, rigid plastic, and paper containers
- Clean paper and cardboard

Don't Recycle:

- Plastic bags
- Plastic wrap or film
- Anything with food on it

Somervillema.gov/Wizard

RecycleSmartMA.org/FAQ

Not sure how to dispose of something?



Enter the item name in the Somerville Waste Wizard below to find out.

Waste Wizard

English

Share

My Schedule

Waste Wizard

Need help?

Type the name of an item and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

Search

Privacy

Terms of Service

Cookie Policy

Reminder: Register to Vote!



- Register to vote [online](#) or [mail](#) in a registration by **Wednesday, October 16 by 8 p.m.**
 - For the Nov. 5, 2019 City Election
- You may also register to vote in person at the Elections Department

somervillema.gov/elections

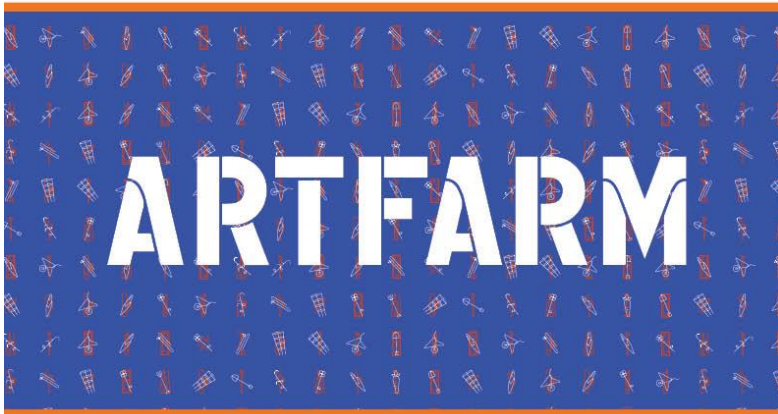
Lincoln Park



Top row: At-Large City Councilor Stephanie Hirsh | Bottom row: Arn Franzen, Director of Parks

Art Farm

- Final stages of design
 - Going to City Council for funding
-



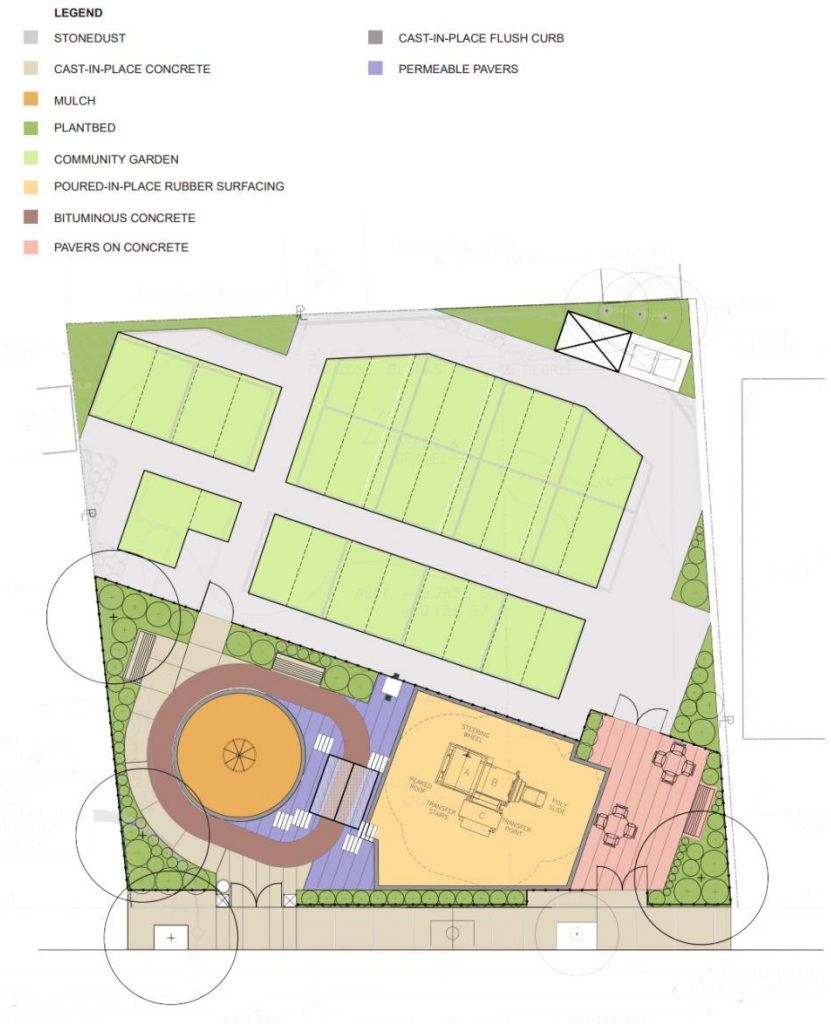
Upcoming meeting

- Monday, October 21
 - 6-8 p.m.
 - Brickbottom Gallery,
1 Fitchburg Street
-

somervillema.gov/ArtFarm

Allen Street Playground

- The design was completed and put out to bid in early summer
 - Prices came back very high
- The City rebid the project in late August
 - A contractor that meets the City's budget is now being selected
- Aiming for completion in Summer 2020



Beacon St. Reconstruction

- Paving is complete on the main roadway
- Over the next few weeks, future work by MassDOT contractors will include but not be limited to:
 - Roadway striping
 - Bright green surface treatment for bikes lanes
 - Isolated sidewalk repair
 - Punch list for additional items that require completion

Green Line Extension Updates

- Project is on schedule to be open by end of 2021
- **Bridge Closure Updates:**
 - Broadway bridge on track to reopen March 2020
 - Washington St. bridge now expected throughout the winter but will reopen April 2020 instead of Fall 2020
 - Medford St. bridge – [Will reopen late spring 2020](#)
 - School St. bridge expected to close early spring 2020
- **Next public meeting:** November 2019

We Remain Vigilant Regarding Traffic Management

- An interdepartmental team to coordinate with state partners
 - Fire, Police, Mobility, Engineering, Traffic and Parking, Communications and other staff

Three pronged approach

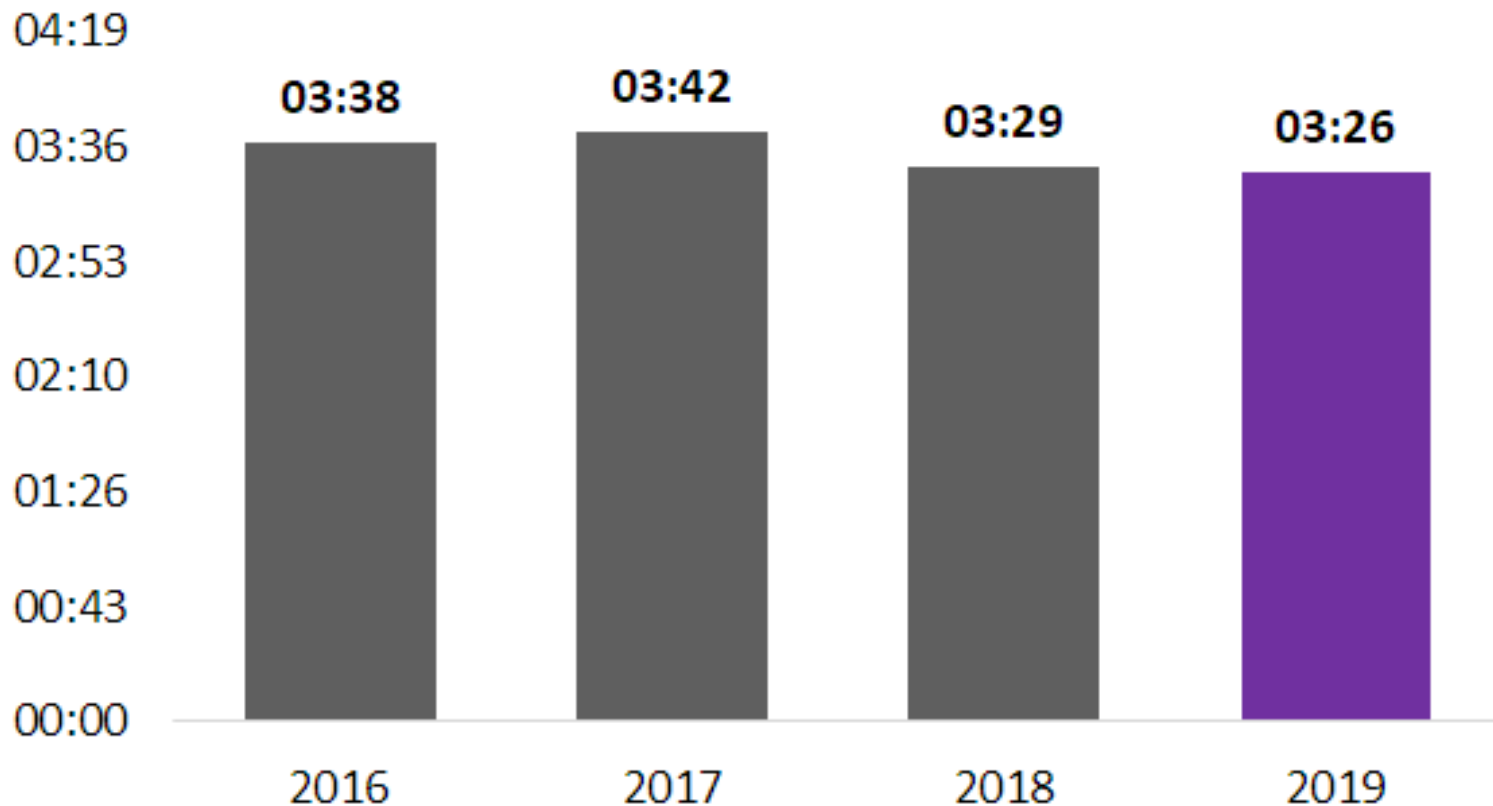
1. Advance planning
2. Daily monitoring
3. Rapid response

- **Reboot Your Commute campaign with the GLX team**
- **96** neighboring cities and town, **84** media outlets, **29** medical facilities, **26** colleges, and large employers in the area

If you have concerns regarding traffic or detours, please continue to report them to **311** or to **construction@somervillema.gov**

Response Times Through Construction

Avg. Citywide SFD Emergency Response Time:
Construction Period (April through September)



Stay Informed



- **MassDOT GLX Updates**
 - mass.gov/GLX
- **City of Somerville Construction Resources**
 - Newsletter: somervillema.gov/ConstructionNewsletter
 - Website: somervillema.gov/Construction
- **City Alerts**
 - somervillema.gov/alerts
- **City Newsletter**
 - somervillema.gov/Enews

SOMERVILLE FIRE DEPT. RESPONSE TIMES & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



Chief Charles Breen



Saturday, November 16
10 a.m. to Noon



Career Open House

Somerville Fire Department Headquarters
266 Broadway

Want to Learn More?

Contact the Somerville Personnel Dept. at **617-625-6600 x3300**

Or Email Talent Acquisition Manager, Jennifer Mancia at **Jdutra@somervillema.gov**

somervillema.gov/BecomeAFirefighter

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



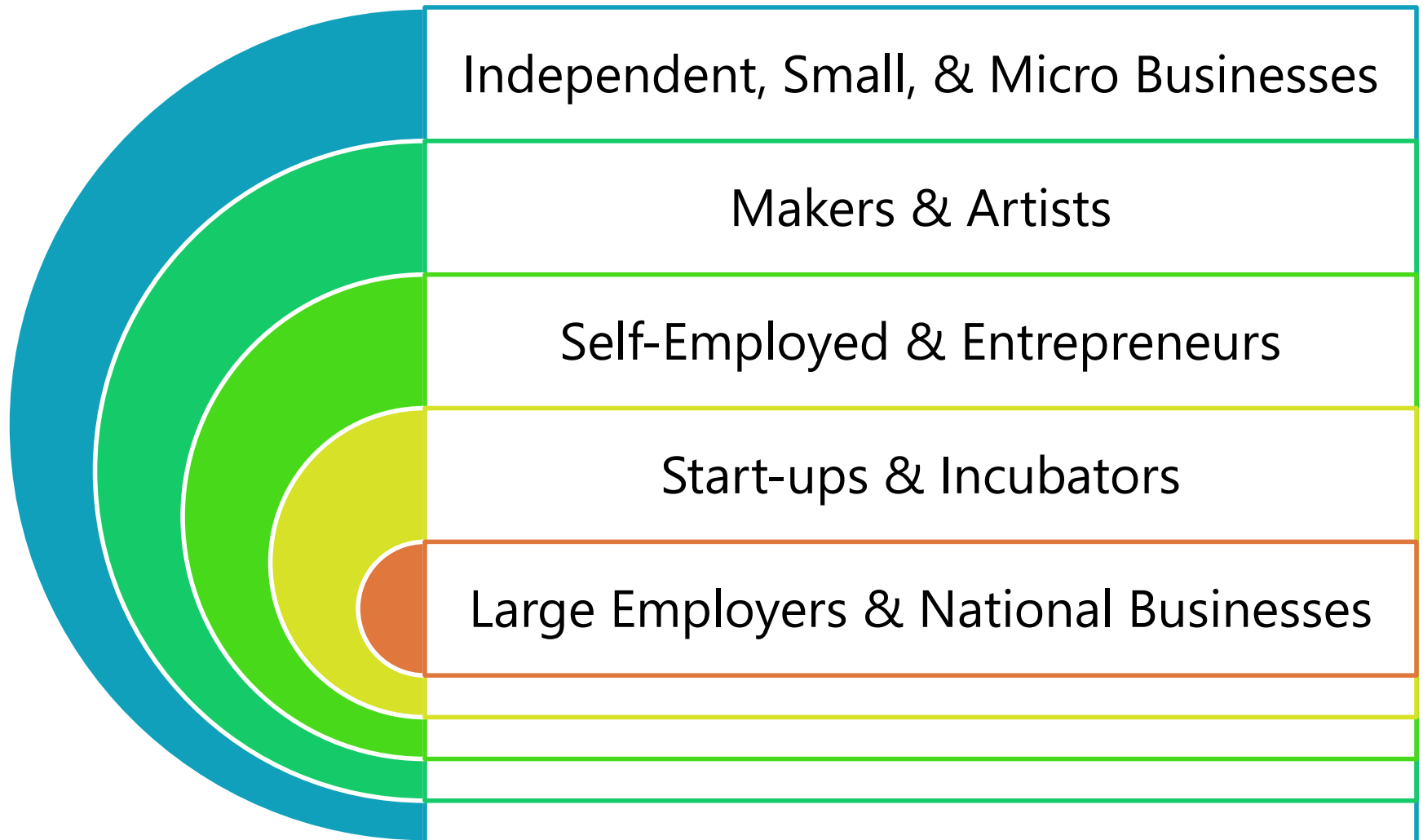
Thinking Outside the Big Box

Helping our Alternative Economies and
Small Business Community

Adapt & Thrive in a Changing World

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Diversity of Our Local Economy



Our Economic
Diversity
Defines Us,
Supports Our
Community
Goals, and
Builds Our
Unique
Quality of Life



Walkability

Sustainability



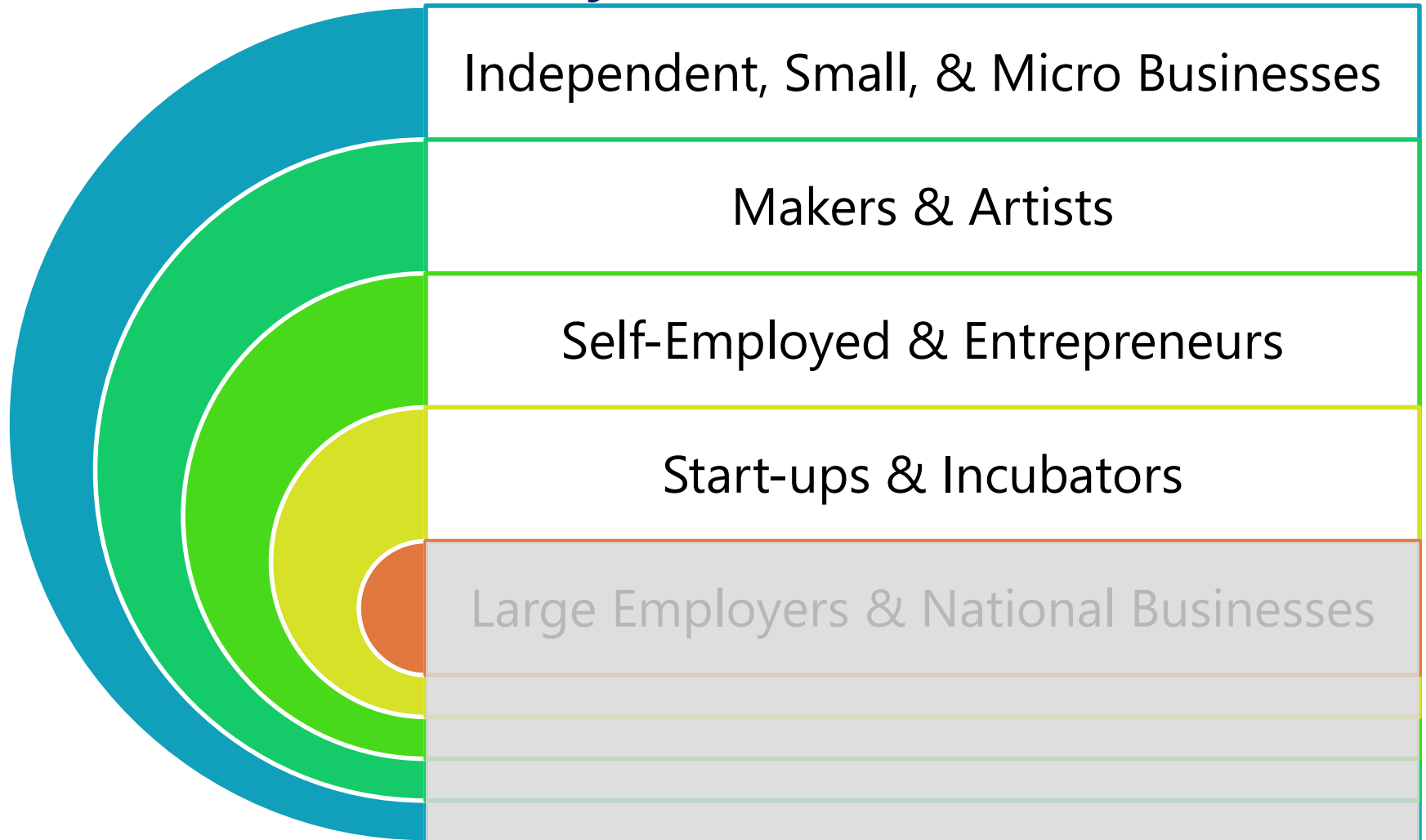
Diversity

Community



Jobs

Focusing on our Alternative & Small Business Economy



How does this
impact you?

A few examples...

A Key Part of our Local Ecosystem: **Sustainability**

- **1/3** of Somerville's green house gas emissions come from transportation, with nearly **60%** of that coming from passenger vehicles.

If we want to reduce GHG emissions from transportation we need to:

Shift trips
away from
cars



Have
nearby
shops and
amenities
that make it
easier to
not drive



Have small
businesses
in squares
and
neighborhoods
across the
city



Support
work
models that
require less
commuting


A Key Part of our Local Ecosystem:

Affordability


- Residential taxes, which are based on a house's value and the tax rate, are a driver of affordability.

If we want to keep residential tax rates low we need to:

**Shift more of
taxes from of
residential to
commercial**



**Commercial
taxes, meals
taxes, and sales
taxes help offset
residential taxes**



**Help small
businesses thrive
and welcome
new ones so
those funds
increase**

A Key Part of our Local Ecosystem:

Quality of Life

- Our Happiness Survey showed correlations between residents' overall happiness and factors like availability of cultural events, the physical setting of their neighborhood, and happiness with their neighborhood.

If we want residents to be happy living in Somerville we need to:

Have vibrant neighborhoods and squares

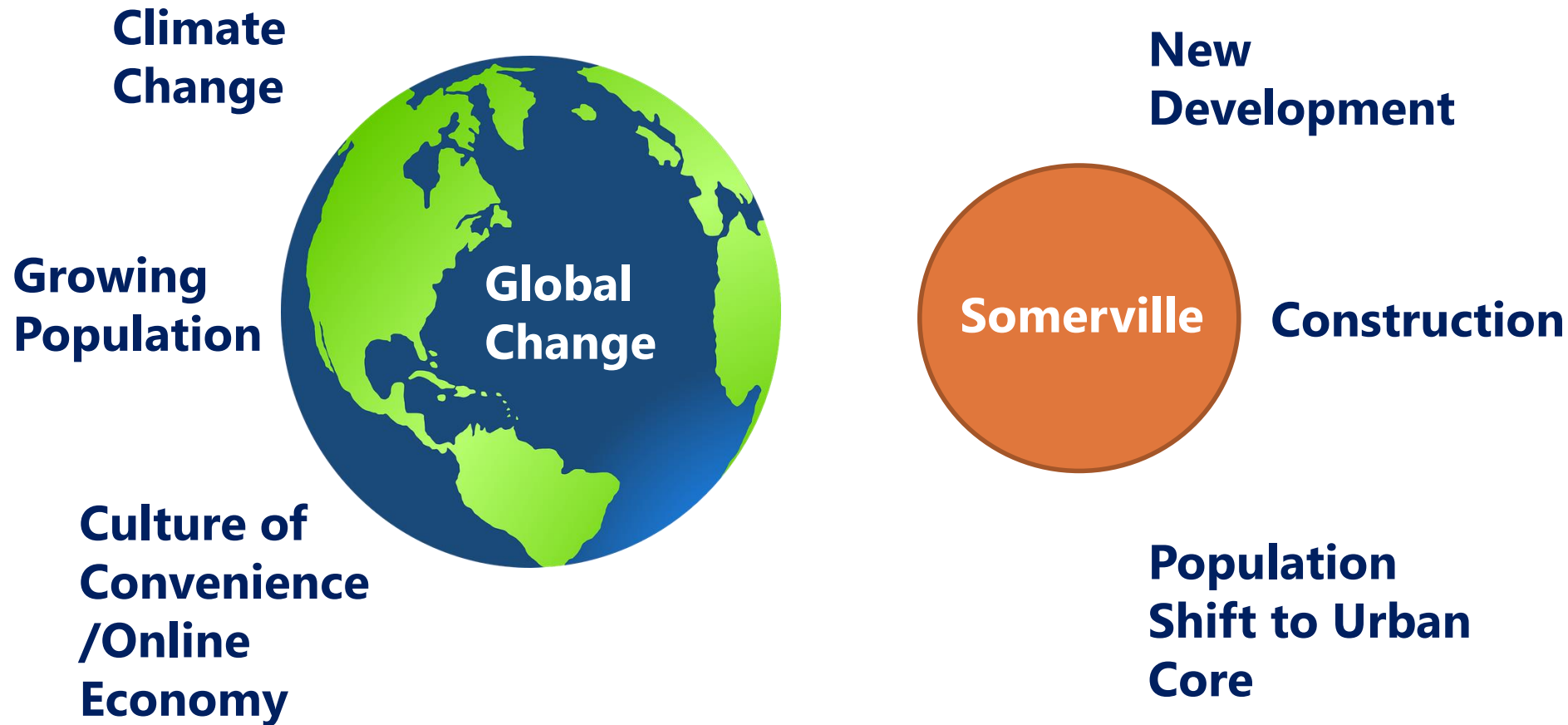


Mobility improvements, density, and cultural events bring people in



Local businesses provide services, amenities, and sense of community

But We Are All Experiencing Local & Global Change



How Do We Adapt and Approach these Challenges with Flexibility?

At the Same Time, Our Local, Independent Businesses Face Many Challenges:



**Survival
Now**

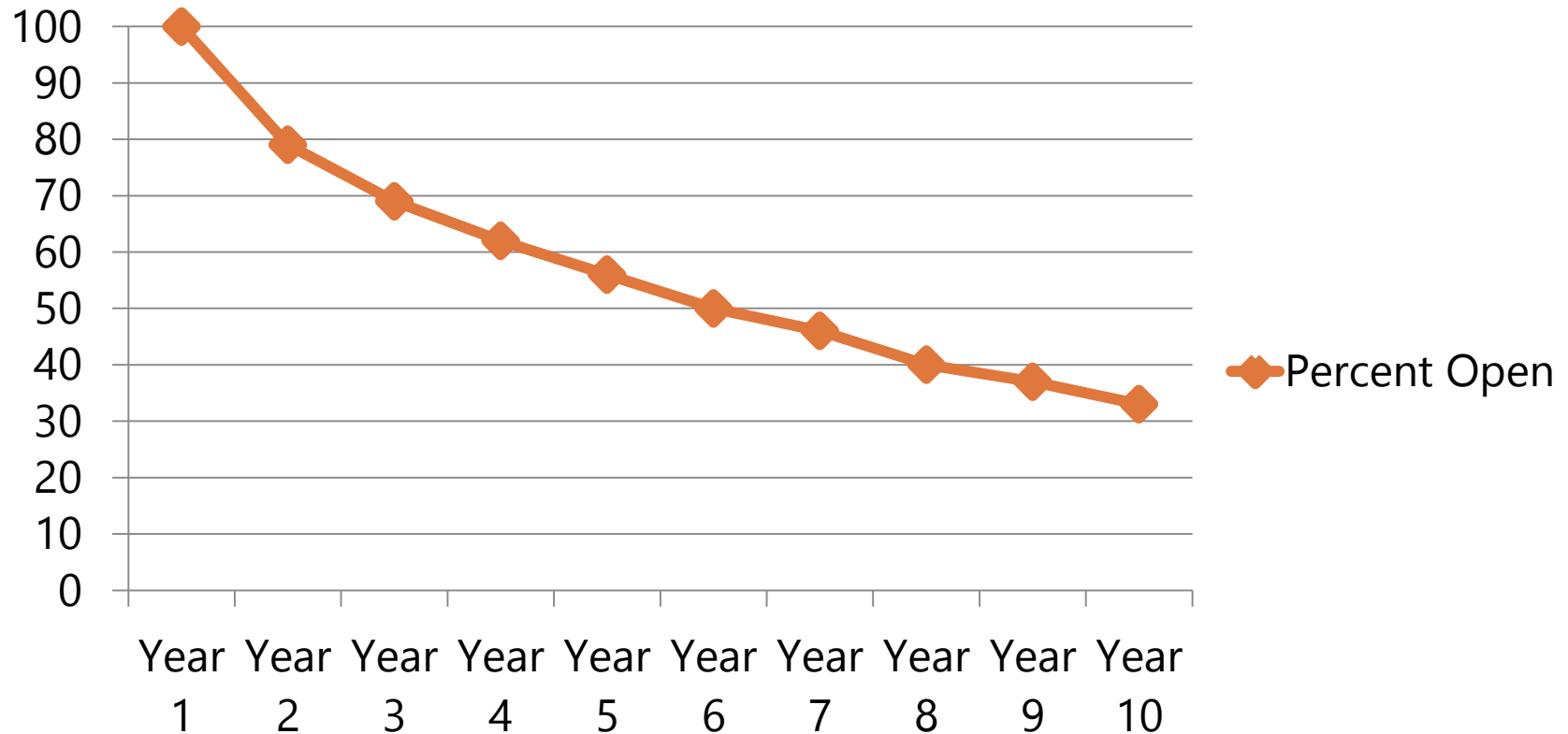
**Resiliency
& Adaptability**

**Stronger
Future**

The old model of economic development wasn't addressing current challenges that small, micro, alternative, and start-up businesses face, so the City began thinking creatively about how to address modern economic development needs.

Half of Small Businesses Fail Within 5 Years, Two-Thirds Fail Within 10

**Percent of Small Businesses Remaining Open
During First 10 Years**



Alternative Economic Development in Action

Connecting Customers and Small, Local
Businesses

Supporting our creative economy

Economic Development through the Arts

For every **\$1** we spend, we see **\$4.40** in economic impacts

Direct Impact

- Money artists and vendors earn at events
- Money spent on supplies and promotion of events

Indirect Impact

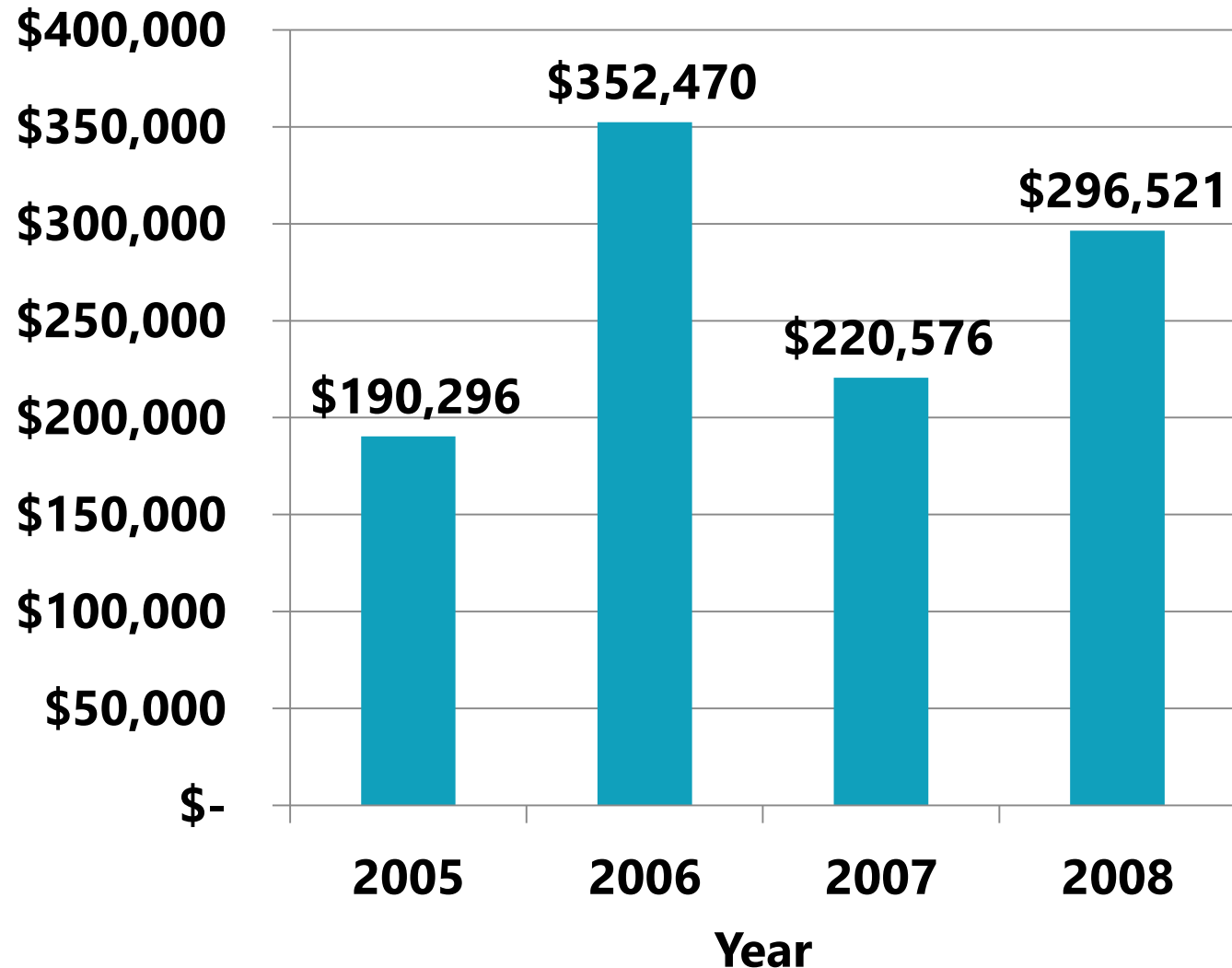
- Attendees patronizing nearby local businesses
- Placemaking brings people back to our businesses



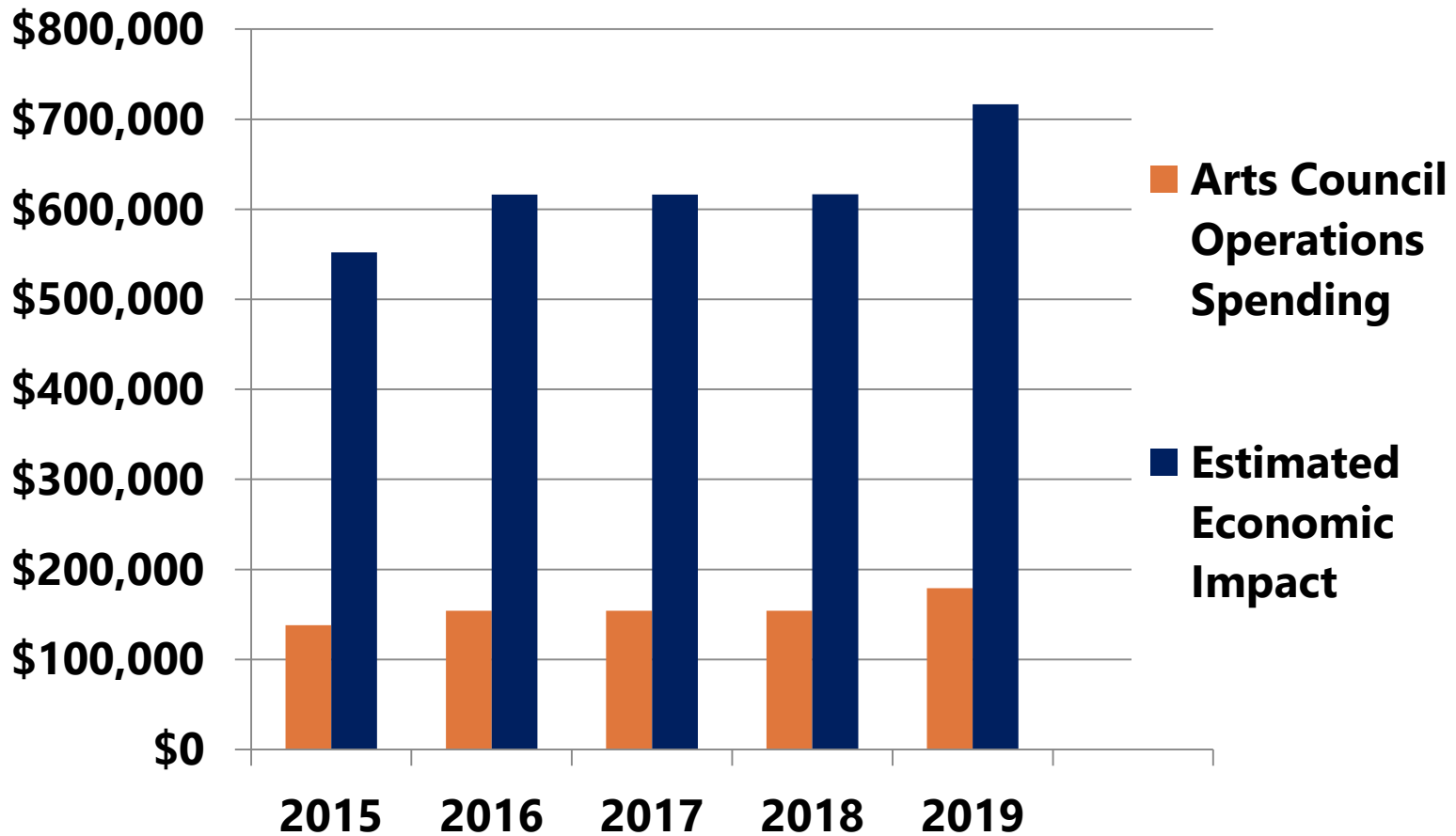
Economic Development through the Arts



Economic Impacts of ArtsUnion



Arts Council Estimated Economic Impact: Approximately \$3M Over 5 Years



Conservatively estimates 4, not 4.4 times operational spending for economic impact and excludes grant funds expended, which would add additional impacts.

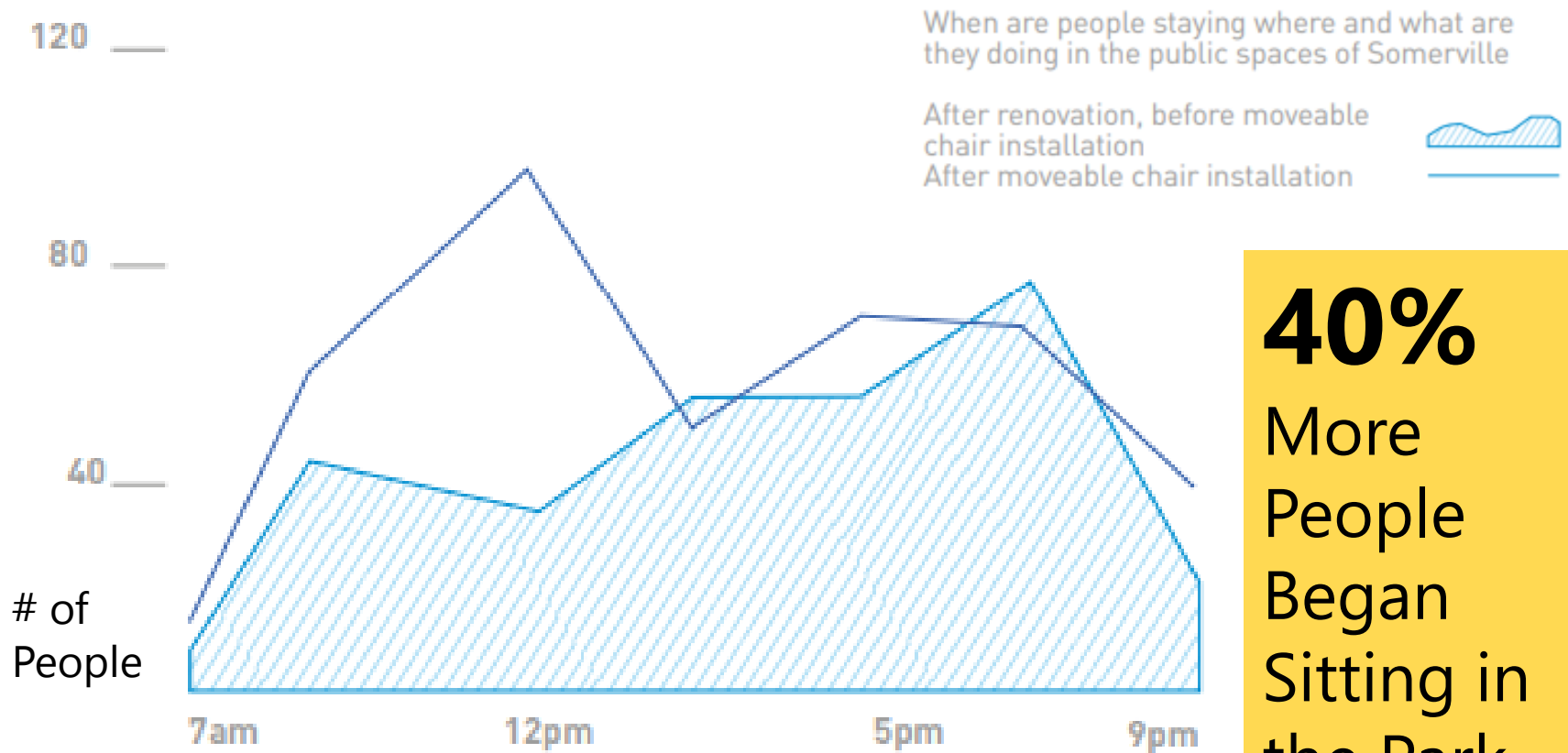
Placemaking

People stick around in places they feel comfortable.

- Activity
- Outdoor furniture
- Parks and other open spaces
- Special events



Placemaking – Furniture & water feature in Kenney Park



40%
More
People
Began
Sitting in
the Park

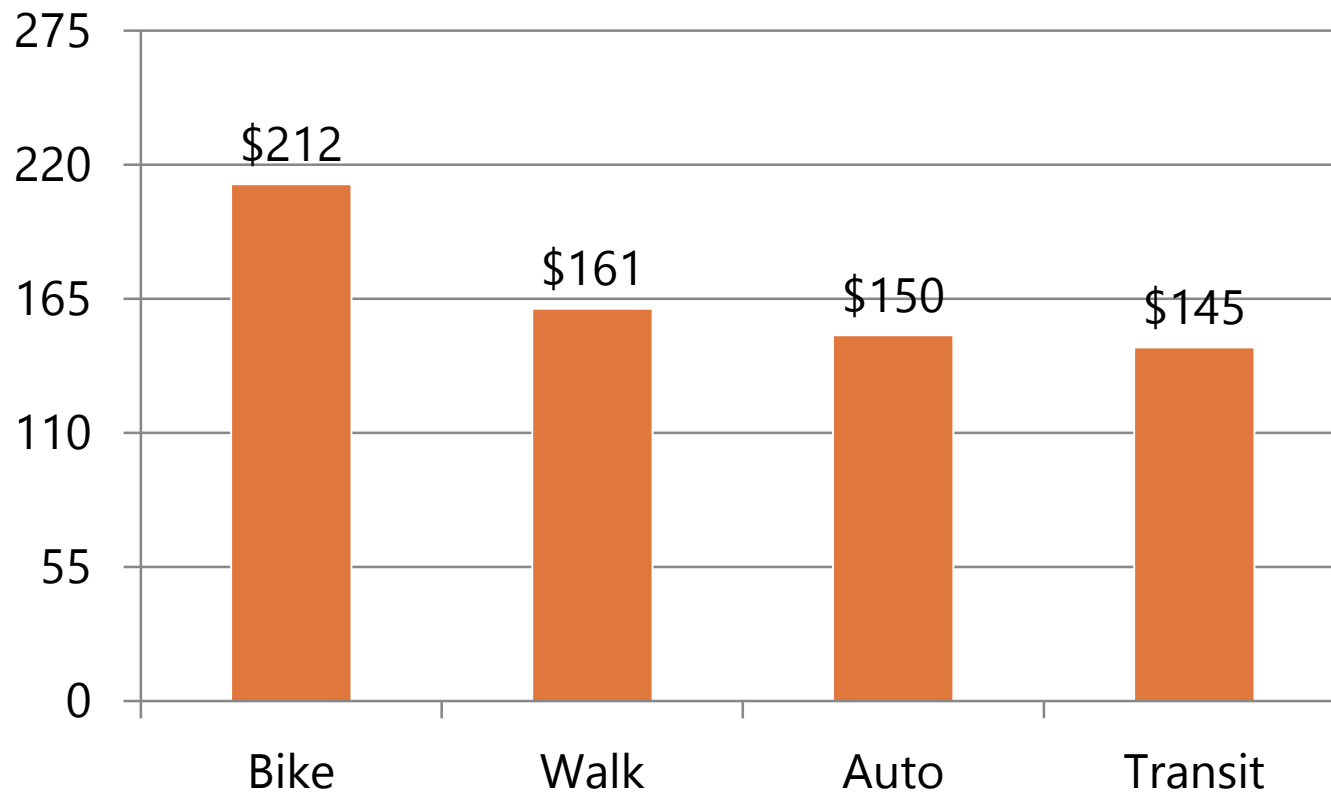
Investing in Mobility is Investment in Local Business



Studies have found that when communities improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure they gain net new businesses and private investment increases.

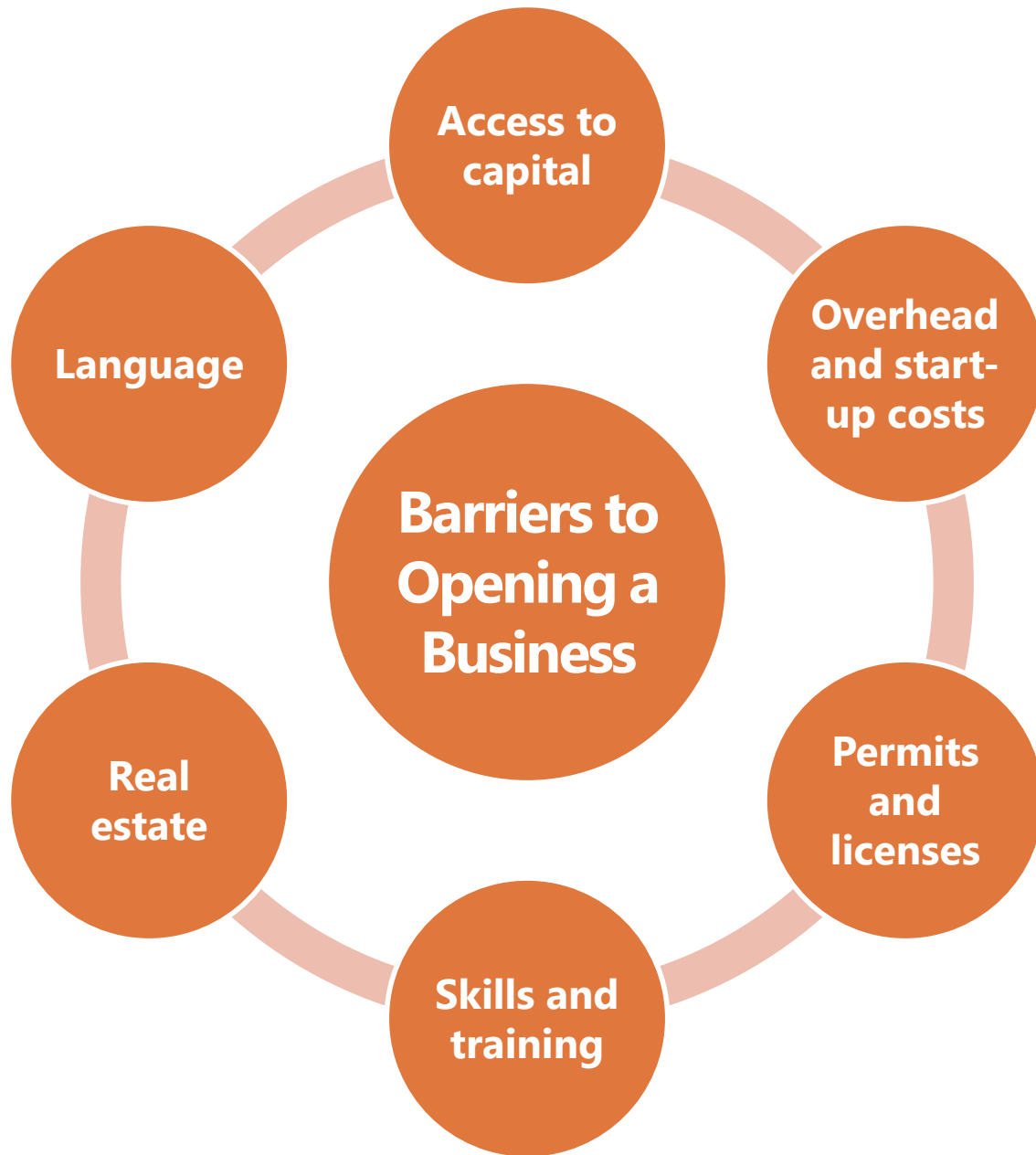
Spending per Month by Travel Mode

Portland, OR, Study: Monthly spending on convenience stores, bars, restaurants



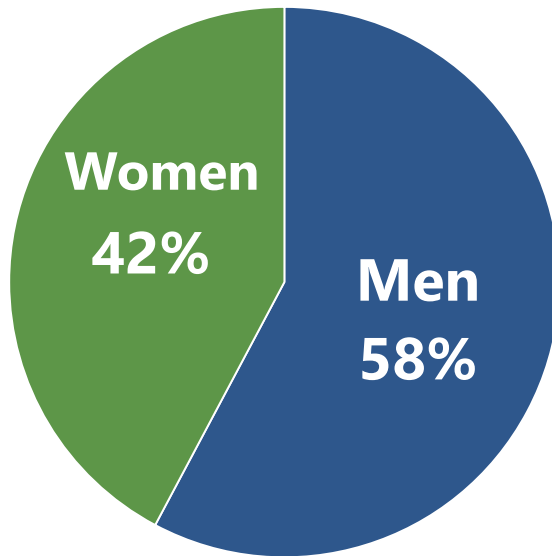
Economic Development in Action

Lowering the Barriers to Entry

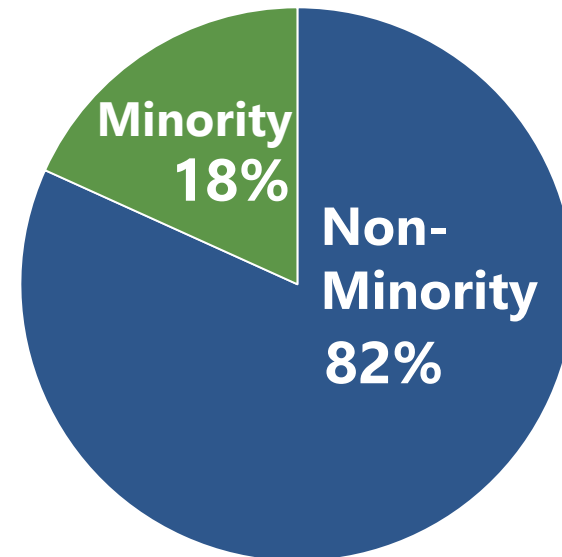


Greater Equity Needed in Somerville Business Ownership

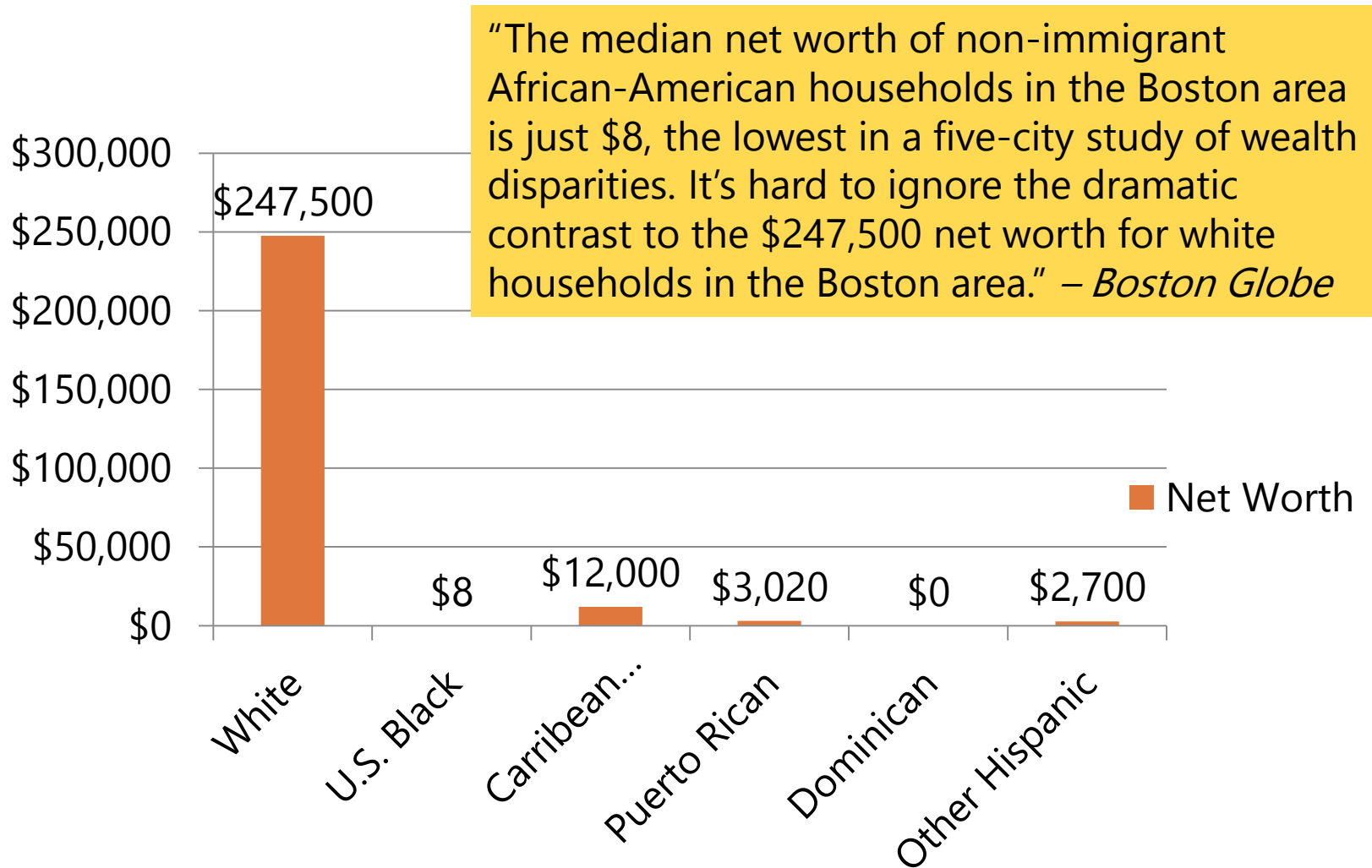
**Men-Owned vs.
Women-Owned**



**Minority-Owned vs.
Non-Minority-Owned**



Boston Data on Racial Wealth Gap



Opening Doors & Minds

Nibble
Global Eats by Local Peeps

Supporting **Diversity**

- **Immigrants are twice as likely to open a business**, often in the food industry
- **More than 40%** of food business owners in Union Square are immigrants
- Nibble: Representing **13 countries** including Venezuela, India, Mexico, Colombia, Somalia, Panama, Ethiopia

Supporting **Equity**

- Help with permitting and certifications
- Multilingual services
- Lower start-up cost and overhead
- ADA Commercial Kitchen

Two new restaurants:

Las Carolinas and Nibble Kitchen



Regulations for Today's Reality



- **New Public Liquor Licenses**

- Existing businesses can increase the profit by ~20%
- Lowering the cost to enter the restaurant industry
- \$3,500-\$5,000 per license (with annual fees of \$2,000-\$3,500) vs. upwards of \$100k in Somerville and more than \$400k in Boston



- **Food Trucks**

- Flexibility
- Lower upfront costs
- Avoid challenge of real estate

Economic Development in Action

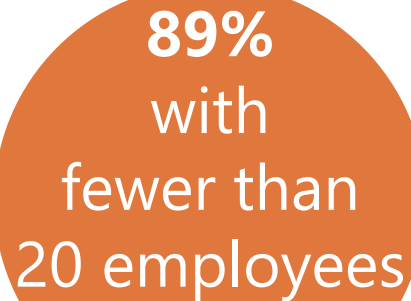
Adapting to New Ways of Working

Alternative Work Spaces & Room to Grow

- In 2016 there were **5.6 million** small and micro businesses in the U.S.
- Start ups and small businesses that need office or production space may not be able to afford or need large spaces
- We need places where businesses can begin and grow



98%
with fewer
than 100
employees



89%
with
fewer than
20 employees



GREENTOWNLABS

Incubator space for cleantech companies

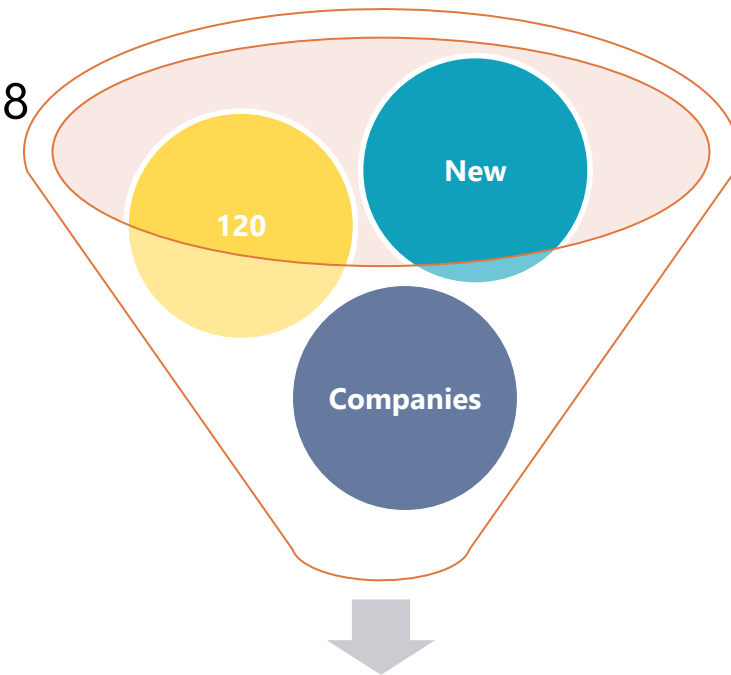
- Home to more than 120 companies
- Some have expanded and moved into their own larger spaces
- Created 900 jobs

City support

- Helped find appropriate real estate
- Supported expansion with I-Fund loan
- Opportunities for companies to partner with Somerville

Launching new larger companies within Somerville:

- RightHand Robotics
- L3
- Voxel 8



900 New Jobs

Artisan's Asylum: One of the World's Largest Maker Spaces



\$30M ESTIMATED LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

- \$20M in venture capital to member companies
- \$4M in Kickstarter funding to launch member-made products
- 150 small businesses supported
- 100 jobs created
- 2,400 trained in fabrication arts each year, from jewelry to welding to 3D design

WE ARE A FABRICATION WONDERLAND



Artisan's Asylum: City Support

- City facilitated their access to a Somerville location at their founding.
- Ongoing City partnerships both with Artisan's and with their members
- Donated SHS machining equipment after State grant provided schools with new equipment
- Zoning Overhaul would establish their current location as a permanent fabrication district.



**75%-80% are
women-
and/or
minority-
owned**



**Entrepreneur
Network**

**Co-working
spaces**

**Artist and
making
zoning**

**Supporting
other ways
of working**

**Economic
Development
programs that
include
entrepreneurs**

**Changed
regulations
for home-
based
businesses**

**Programs:
Small Business
Support and
One Stop
Shop**

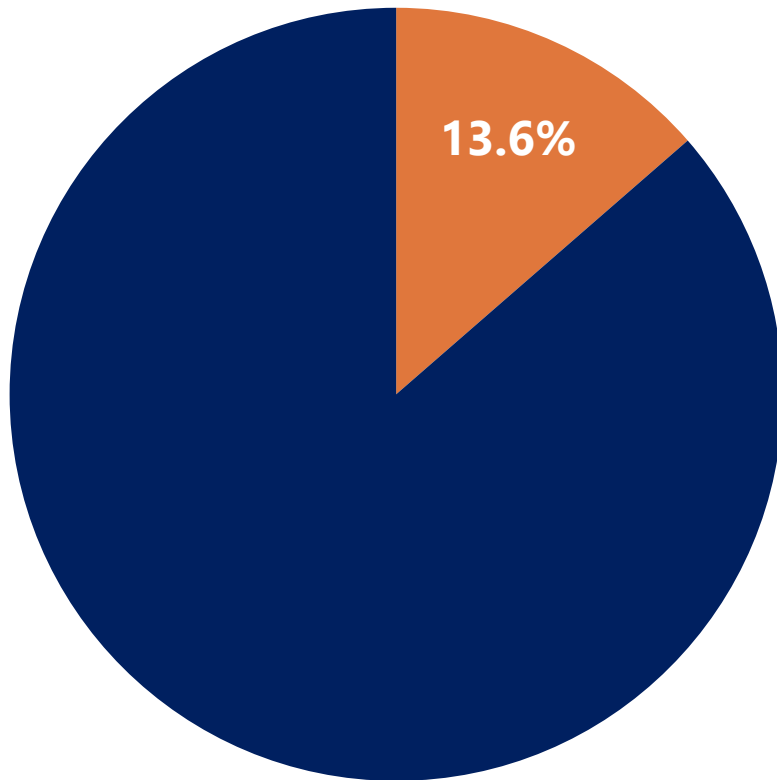


Economic Development in Action

Investing in Ourselves

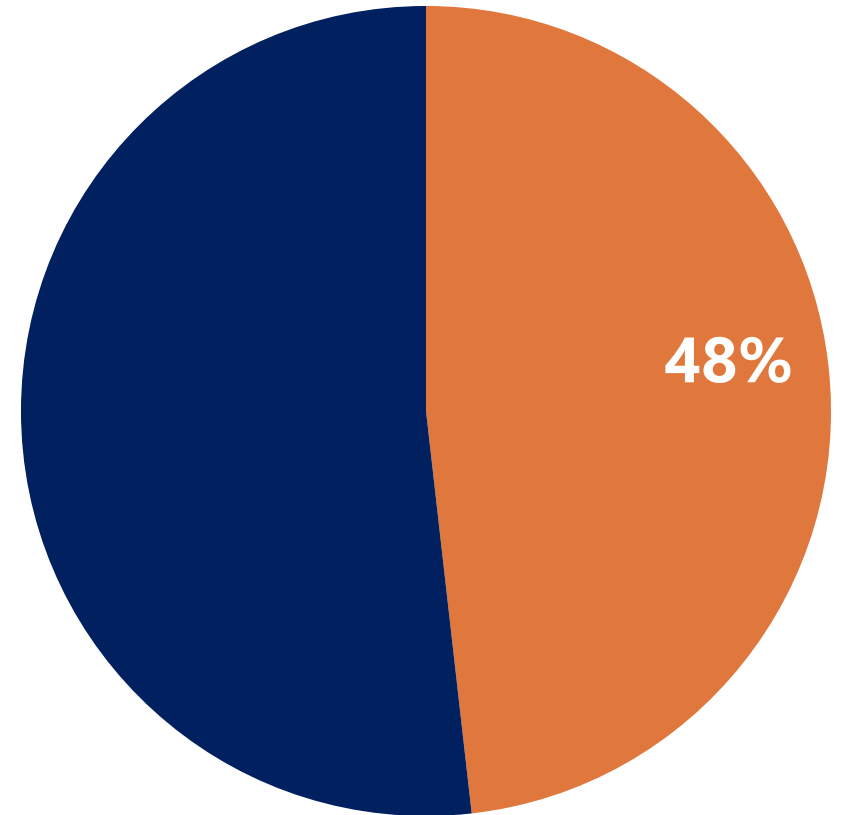
Return on Investment of Spending Locally

Chain Retailers



**Local Recirculation of
Revenue: 13.6%**

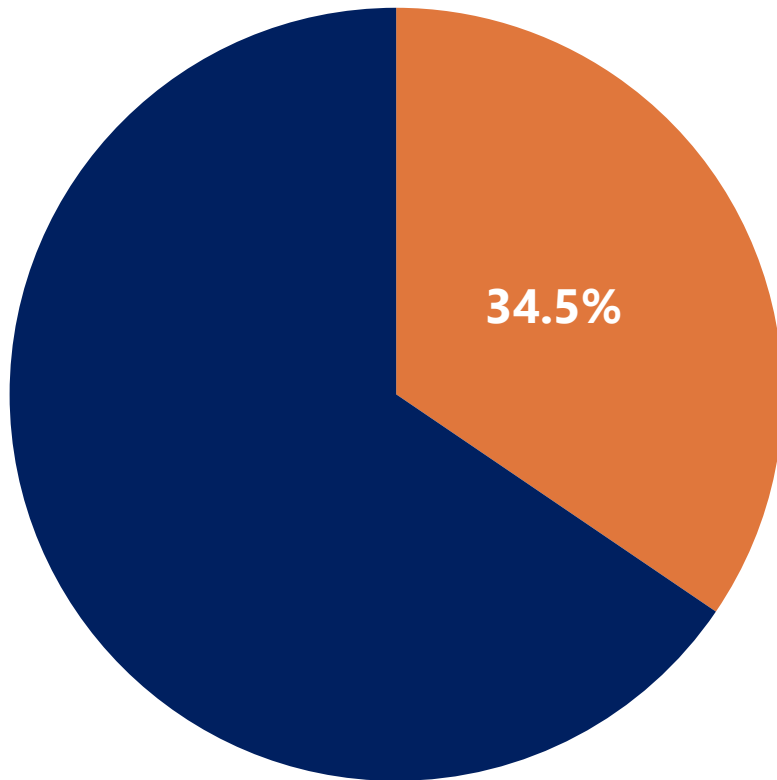
Independents



**Local Recirculation of
Revenue: 48%**

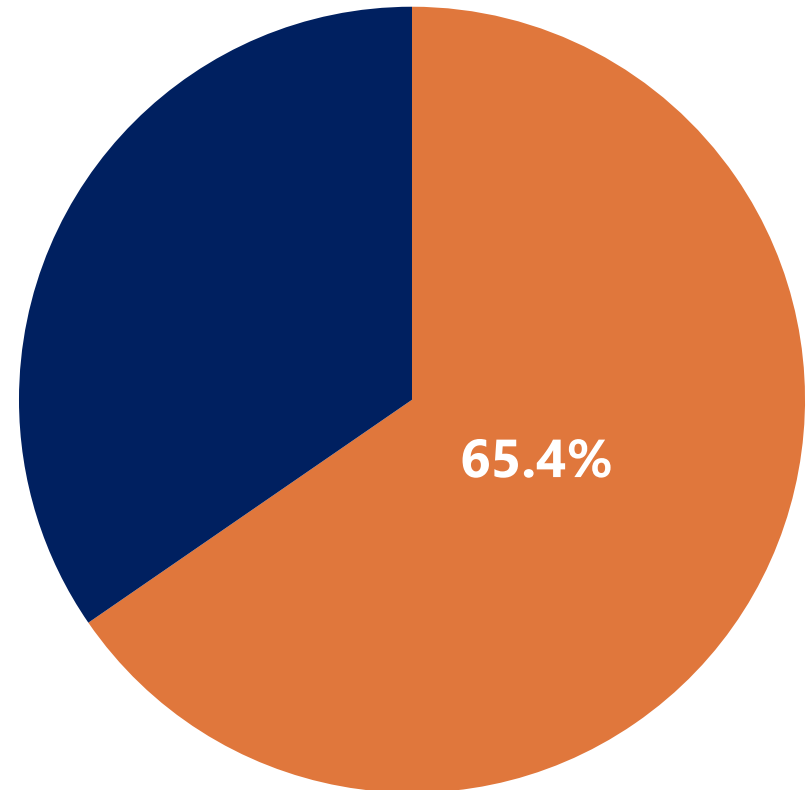
Return on Investment of Spending Locally

Chain Restaurants



**Local Recirculation of
Revenue: 34.5%**

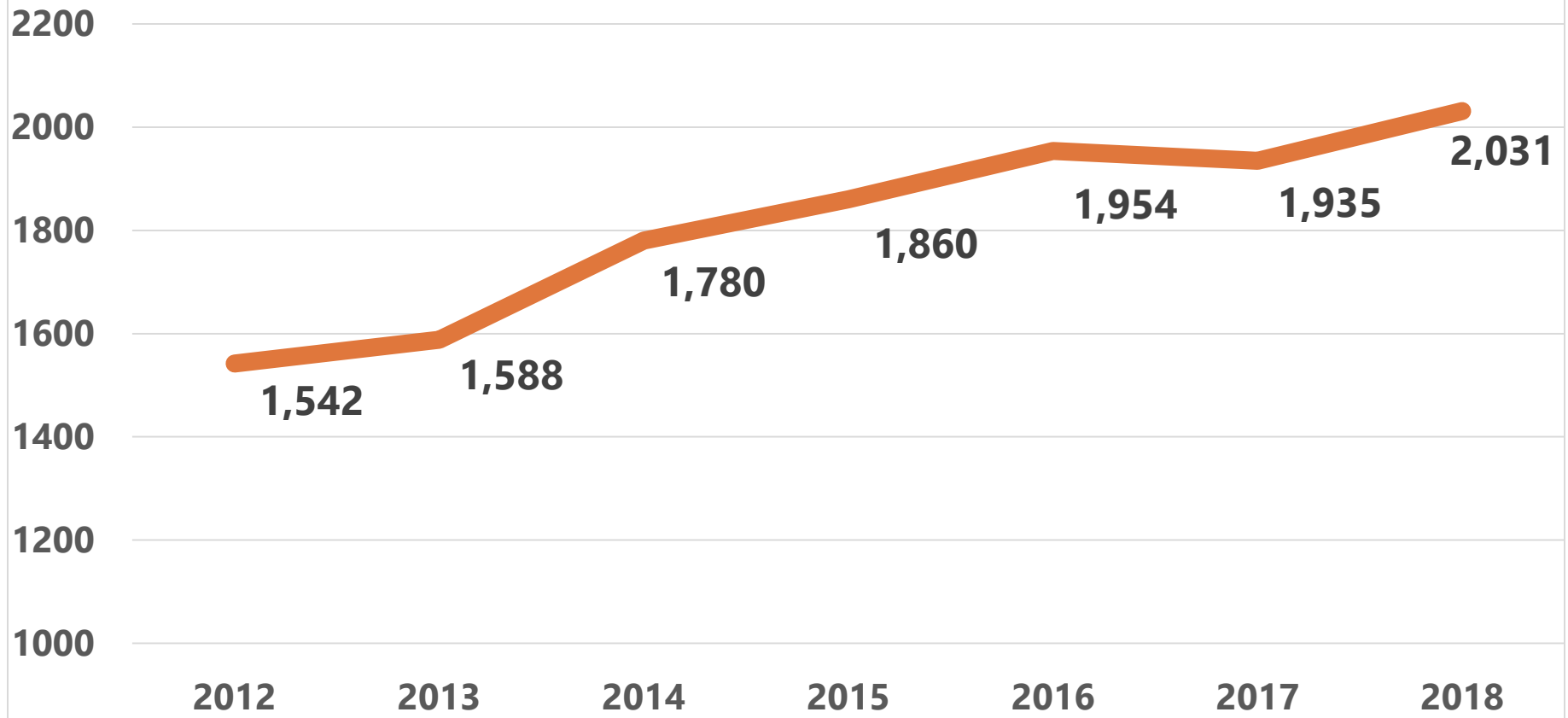
Independents



**Local Recirculation of
Revenue: 65.4%**

489 Net New Businesses 2012-2018

Number of Businesses in Somerville



Our Daily Choices Impact Our Future as a Community



If we enjoy the perks of having these local businesses here, it is up to us to support them.

Invest in Local Businesses,
Invest in Our Somerville

EAST SOMERVILLE RAT STUDY UPDATE

Georgianna Silveira

Environmental Health Coordinator

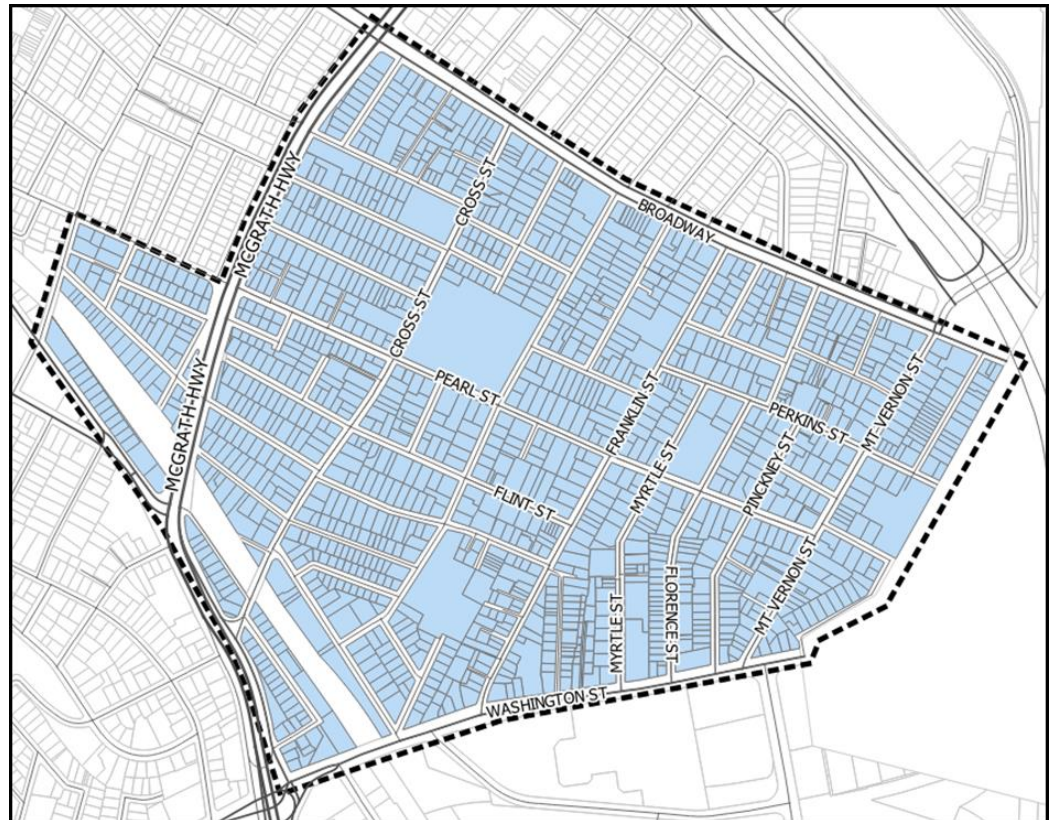
Health and Human Services

The Study

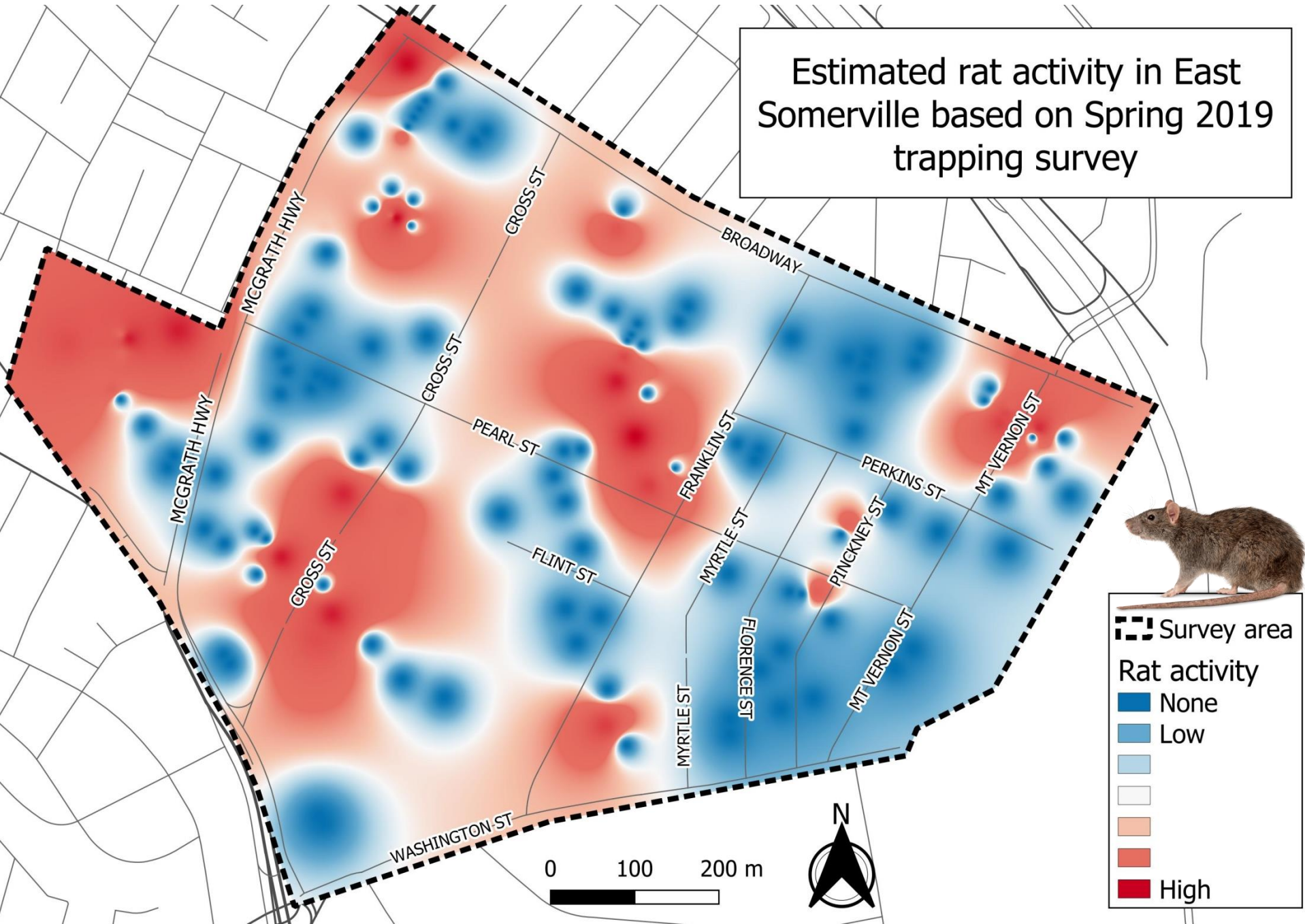
April 29 – May 17
2019



- **295** total traps
- **134** properties
- Caught **90** rats at **31** properties



Estimated rat activity in East
Somerville based on Spring 2019
trapping survey



Results and next steps

Findings

- Higher rat activity is around:
 - properties with multiple trash violations
 - suspected active construction sites
- No difference in activity around areas that were recently baited by the city



Actions

- Increase education and outreach directed at tenants as well as property owners
- Finalization of new rodent abatement requirements for construction permits
- Increase participation in the city's baiting programs to make them more effective
- Development of new studies to address unanswered questions!

SOMERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Captain James Donovan

Ward 2 Crime

Index Crime Trends

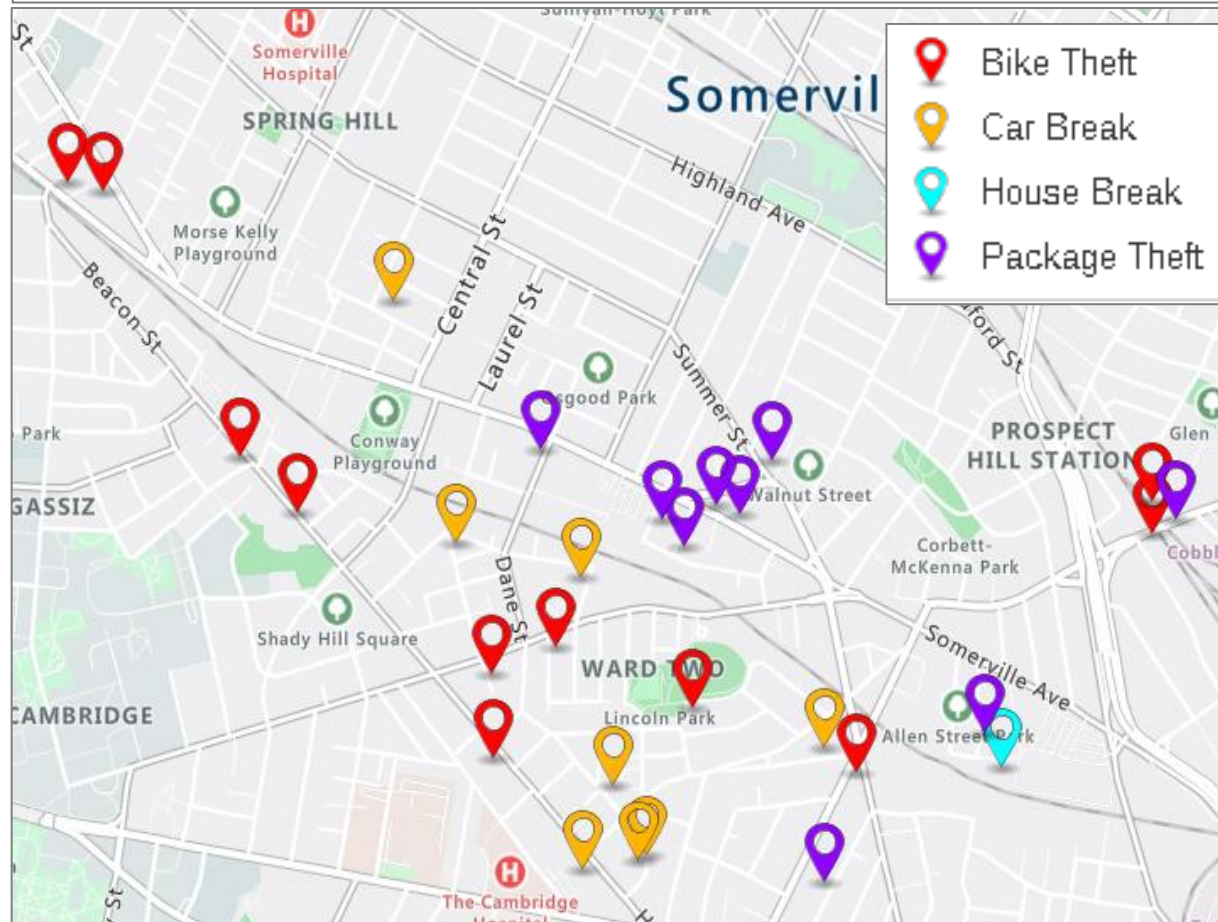
Citywide:

- Index crime **decreased 2%** over one year and **3%** over two years

Ward 2:

- Index crime **decreased 11%** over one year and **increased 2%** over two years.
- Violent crime **decreased 5%** over one year and **9%** over two years.

Select Crime (June 1 – August 31, 2019)



Ward 2 Crime

Bike Theft



Residents:

- Always lock your bike to a fixed object (even if stored inside a garage or shed)
- Be wary of cable locks which are easily cut with wire cutters
- Never lock your bike to wooden posts that can be broken
- Take indoors overnight, if possible. If not, store somewhere with low street visibility (back yard, back porch, etc.) – but always locked.
- Keep a file of bike serial numbers and photos

SPD Efforts:

- Sergeant assigned to oversee bike theft investigations
- Prioritize suspect identification and bike recovery
- Analyze temporal and geographical patterns of incidents
- Neighborhood Police Officers and Area Cars deployed based on temporal patterns and hot spots
- Increase residents' awareness of crime prevention methods

Youth Engagement Successes

- **Basketball Clinic for Somerville Youth**

- SPD Officers held a basketball clinic for youth ages 10 – 19 years old, every Tuesday & Thursday, July 16 – August 29th

- **Junior Police Academy**

- Held two one-week Academies with a total of 61 graduates, ages 11 – 14 yo
- Activities included: District Attorney Marian Ryan presentation, National Guard fitness challenge, CPR training, Cataldo first aid presentation, K-9 presentations, team building, daily physical fitness



Accreditation

The Somerville Police Department was awarded Accreditation by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) on June 4, 2019.



Accreditation is a self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the profession, by the profession. These carefully selected standards reflect critical areas of police management, operations, and technical support activities. They cover areas such as policy development, emergency response planning, training, communications, property and evidence handling, use of force, vehicular pursuit, prisoner transportation and holding facilities. The program not only sets standards for the law enforcement profession, but also for the delivery of police services to citizens of the commonwealth.

Substance Misuse, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault Support

	Contact	Service	Contact Info.
Substance Misuse	MA Substance Use Hotline	Treatment program info	800-327-5050
	Cambridge Health Alliance	Walk-ins Tue. 11:30; MA Health accepted	617-591-6051
	Caspar First Step Outreach	Assist in accessing detox.	617-661-0600
	Riverside Community Care	Outpatient; MA Health accepted	617-623-3278
	North Charles	Maintenance therapy; MA Health only	617-661-5700
	Column Health	Counseling, medication assisted treatment	339-368-7696
	Learn 2 Cope	Family support; Mon. 7 PM	1575 Cambridge St, CAM
	Family Anonymous	Family support; Tue. 7 PM	121 Washington St, MEF
Mental Health	Cambridge Health Alliance	Inpatient & outpatient services	Adults: 617-591-6033 Juveniles: 617-665-3458
	BEST Team	Psychiatric emergency services; MA Health	800-981-4357
	Riverside – Child Guidance Center	Juvenile/family services	617-354-2275
	Neighborhood Counseling & Community Services	Counseling, skill & strength-based strategies	781-600-6074
Domestic Violence	RESPOND	Shelter, crisis hotline, services, education	Hotline: 617-623-5900 Services: 617-440-7267
	Maureen Dipaolo, SPD Family Services	Victim Witness Advocacy	617-625-1600 x 7279
Sexual Assault	BARCC (Boston Area Rape Crisis Center)	Free legal consultation, counseling, and education for survivors and family members of survivors	Hotline: 800-841-8371 https://barcc.org
Additional Services	Cambridge Health Alliance Victims of Violence Program	Adult out-patient trauma clinic providing mental health services for crime victims	617-591-6360
	De Novo	Free civil legal assistance and affordable psychological counseling for low-income people	617-661-1010 Denovo.org

RECENT FLOODING

Brian Postlewaite

Assistant Director of Engineering

Infrastructure & Asset Management

Recent Flooding



Example: Lake Street



June 29, 2019



September 2, 2019

Flooding is a Citywide Concern for:



Public Safety and Health



Property Damage



Combined Sewer Overflows
(CSOs)

Weather Events Linked to Flooding

Precipitation-Based Flooding



Short bursts of intense rain

Rainfall intensity exceeds 0.3 inches within a 15 minute period



Sustained rains

Long duration storms



Snow melts

Ice and snow can block catch basins

Coastal Flooding

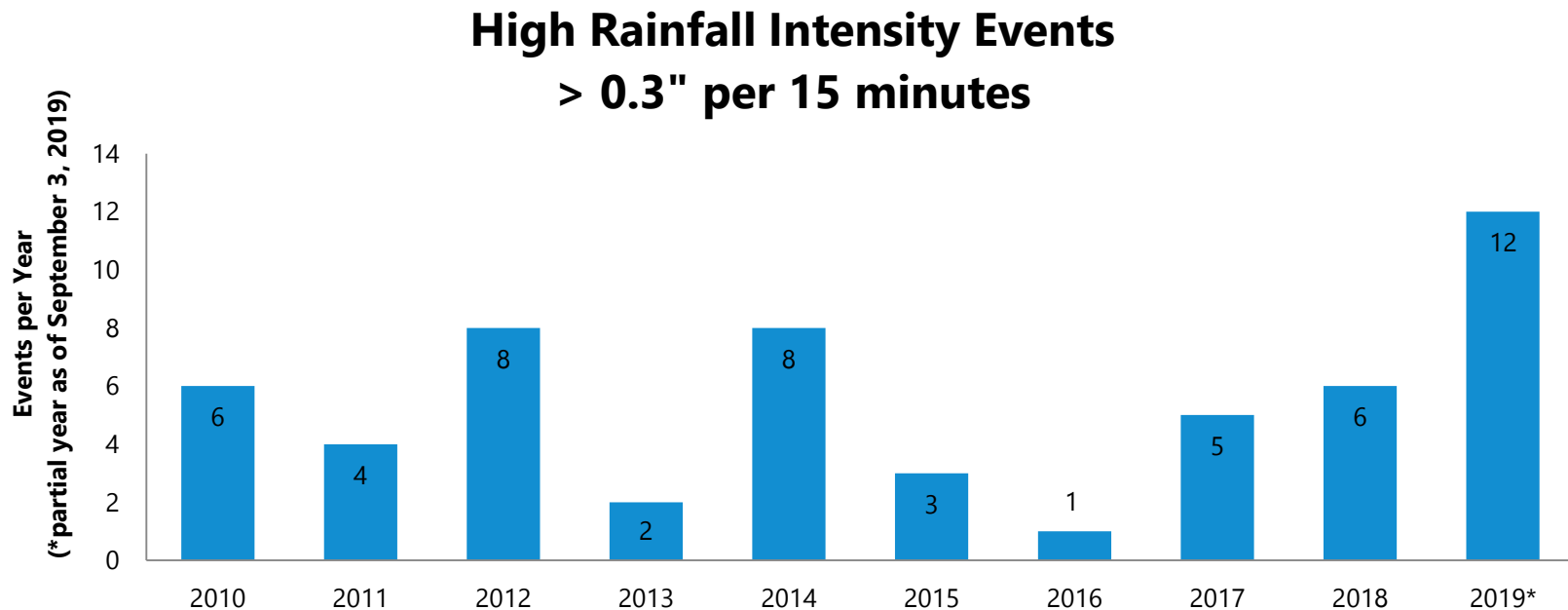


Storm surge

Such as NYC experienced during Hurricane Sandy

We've Seen More Events of High Rainfall Intensity in 2019

Climate change is expected to increase rainfall intensity over time.



Data source: United States Geological Survey, collected at Fresh Pond in Cambridge, MA

City Response

- During Flood Events
 - Sewer dispatches crew(s) to respond to constituent reports of active flooding
 - Crew assesses basin and system condition
 - Crew disperses flood where possible
- After Flood Events
 - Engineering receives email reports to inform long-term system improvement plans

Problems are Deeper than Emergency Response



Pipe Capacity and Development Density

Limited space for the rainfall to travel



Pipe Condition

Pipe breaks and debris inhibit flow



Climate Change

Increased precipitation, storm surge intensity, and sea level rise will affect the Northeast



Geography

Some areas of the City are more prone to flooding due to elevation



Catch Basin Condition

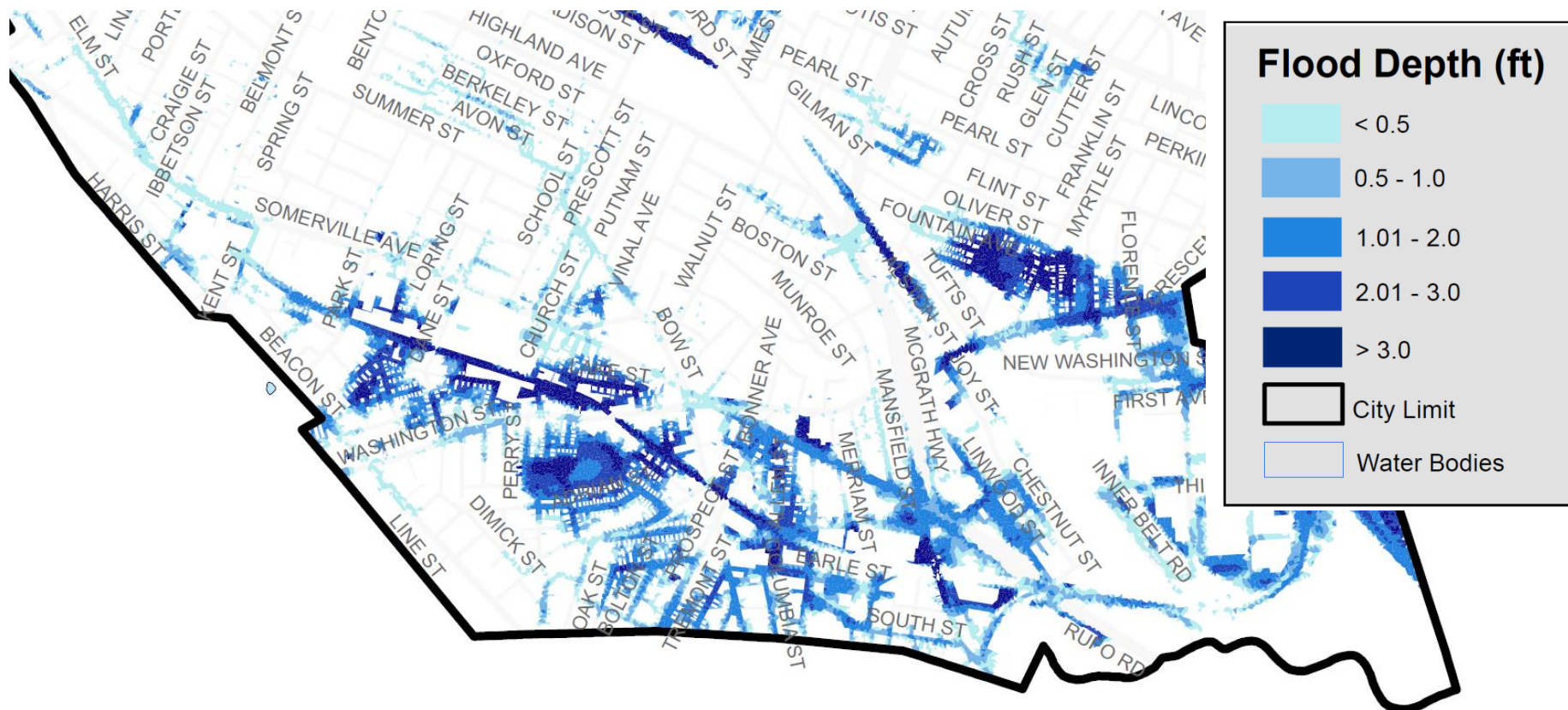
Without regular cleaning and maintenance, flow can't reach pipes

Path to Long-Term Fixes

Starting point 2018		Study/prioritize 2019		Design/build 2019 +	
Project	CIP Cost Estimate (FY19-FY28)	Project	CIP Cost Estimate (FY19-FY28)	Project	CIP Cost Estimate (FY19-FY28)
Somerville Ave. Utility & Streetscape Improvement	\$39.07M Sewer Enterprise (USQ DIF) + MassWorks	Sewer System Evaluation Study and Asset Management Plan	\$10.35M Sewer Enterprise	Poplar St. Stormwater Pump Station	\$21.37M Sewer Enterprise (USQ DIF)
		Hydraulic Modeling and System Improvement Analysis	\$1M Sewer Enterprise (Annual OM)	Spring Hill Sewer Separation	\$14.18M Sewer Enterprise (USQ DIF)
				Sewer Separation Projects (3)	\$50.82M Sewer Enterprise, MWRA, I/I

Please note that dollar amounts are for FY19 CIP spending forward. These do not include prior year spending.

Flood Mapping - Ward 2



(100y, 2070, REC, SLR100y2070)

In the meantime...

- Flood risk communication



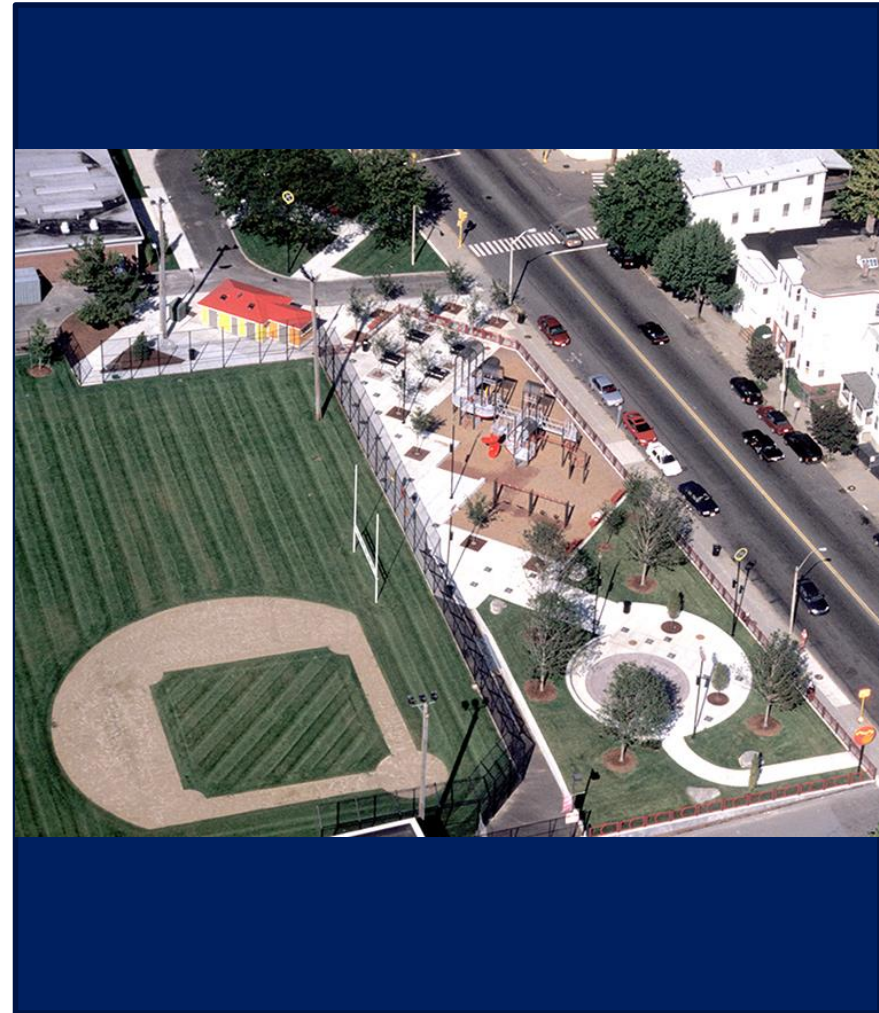
Conway Park, Brick Bottom - Poplar Street Planters, and Post Construction Evaluation

Brad Rawson

Director of Mobility

Conway Park

- The City conducted extensive site analysis
- City's consultant, City staff, City attorney, DEP, and EPA are working closely to develop the remediation strategy
- Final costs and timeline have not been confirmed
- Site and soil contamination factors will include the landscape design of the new field



Brick Bottom - Planters on Poplar Street



Post Construction Evaluation



THANK YOU

Be Sure to Subscribe to the City Newsletter:
SomervilleMA.gov/Newsletter